

# The Independent Weekend Edition & Free Press

**KEN NUGENT**  
Publisher

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## 'F' marks the spot

The 'F' grade awarded to the Halton Board of Education by the Halton Taxpayers Coalition Inc. last week not only stands for failure.

Fractious, feuding and faulty are other words that leap to mind.

This poor grade of the 18 trustees and board's administration should be a concern to all Halton taxpayers. Sixty per cent of your tax dollars are spent on education—\$272 million annually—and yet this board is best-known for its in-fighting and divisiveness instead of its duty to the students and taxpayers.

While some trustees, such as vice-chair Penny Siebert and chair Linda Glover, may call the coalition's criticisms "silly" and lacking in credibility, we contend that the coalition has simply made an effort to highlight the shortcomings of this board—and they are many.

There is a ridiculous 10-8 split among the board: 10 traditionalists who believe more money solves problems and eight reformers who want the board to adopt a more cost-conscious approach. This division cannot help but hamper the board's effectiveness.

Perhaps the most telling remark concerning the grade came from Oakville trustee Linda Lane who said she would give the board a 'C' for its efforts.

A 'C' simply means satisfactory. Should this board not set its sights higher? Aren't our kids worth it?

## Actions praised

Dear editor,

My mother and I were recently in a car accident in which my mother was badly cut.

We would like to thank everyone at the scene for their prompt action; the lady who called 9-1-1 so quickly, the gentleman who encouraged me to help mum, the kind, gentle police officer who realized my mother was my top priority and the calm and efficient ambulance personnel who did their difficult job so gently. Each person played his part in getting my mother to treatment safely and quickly.

Once at the hospital we received immediate and efficient attention. My family and I waited from noon until 5 p.m. while my mother was thoroughly examined and treated. During her five-day stay she received excellent care given with kindness and compassion.

It is madness to even contemplate reducing or eliminating services at this hospital. Georgetown is growing and needs more services, not less, to meet its needs.

Words cannot express our gratitude to all the people involved with this accident.

Zyta Daykin  
and Norah Wisniewski

## Our Readers Write

The Independent & Free Press welcomes letters to the editor from our readers. All letters must be signed and include an address and a daytime telephone number. Letters can be mailed, delivered to our office address at 211 Armstrong Ave., Georgetown, Ont., L7G 4X5, faxed to us at (905) 873-0398 or e-mailed to: independent.freepress@aztec-net.com

## Letter of the day

### Town offers nothing for youths

Dear editor,

Re: This small town is a small town (letter to the editor, Aug. 14).

I, too, am a long-time resident of Georgetown and would like to point out that not everyone can afford to join the different sports and camps available to people in this community, and the children Marian Colyer was referring to in her letter are too old to go to camp anyway.

Ms. Colyer did not come from a large town and has never lived in Brampton or Mississauga and likes Georgetown. She came from the same small town I came from and chose Georgetown because it is small. Her children also take part in some of the sports you mentioned. But, you just did not get the message: there is nothing to do in Georgetown for young teens unless you have a car or pots of money.

How many teens do you know who want to walk in the park and play on the swings? I am also a mother of three and my kids play soccer, but all the sports are in the evening, not in the day, and that is why children skateboard at Holy Cross—because there is nothing to do in Georgetown.

Not everyone can swim and some people do not take lessons from the recreation department because they just can't afford it. Lacrosse, baseball, soccer, hockey and camps all cost money, so tell me, what is there for a young teen to do? As a mother of two teens, I, for one, would like to know. My children can swim and use the indoor pool but swimming every day gets boring and they are too old to play on the swings. They could stay at home with me and play on the computer or with Sega, but they are active children, as they should be. They could go and hang out at the mall, but I don't like that, so they don't.

What else is there to do during the day that does not cost more than \$5 and is safe?

Rosemarie Lee

## PUD

